

S W I

- Firm we subsist, yet possible to *swerve*. *Milton.*
 Many who, through the contagion of ill example, *swerve*
 exceedingly from the rules of their holy faith, yet would up-
 on such an extraordinary warning be brought to comply with
 them. *Atterbury's Sermons.*
3. To ply; to bend.
 Now their mightiest quell'd, the battle *swerv'd*
 With many an inroad gor'd. *Milton.*
4. [I know not whence derived.] To climb on a narrow body.
 Ten wildings have I gather'd for my dear,
 Upon the topmost branch, the tree was high,
 Yet nimbly up from bough to bough I *swerv'd*. *Dryden.*
 She fled, returning by the way she went,
 And *swerv'd* along her bow with swift ascent. *Dryden.*
- SWIFT. *adj.* [from *swift*, Saxon.]
 1. Moving far in a short time; quick; fleet; speedy; nimble;
 rapid.
 Thou art so far before,
 That *swift* wing of recompence is slow
 To overtake thee. *Shakespeare.*
 Yet are these feet, whose strengthless stay is numb,
 Unable to support this lump of clay, *Shakespeare.*
Swift-winged with desire to get a grave. *Shakespeare.*
 Men of war, whose faces were like the faces of lions, and
 as *swift* as the roes upon the mountains. *Cron. xii. 8.*
 We imitate and practise to make *swifter* motions than any
 out of other muskets. *Bacon.*
 To him with *swift* ascent he up return'd. *Milton.*
 Things that move so *swift* as not to affect the senses di-
 stinctly, with several distinguishable distances of their motion,
 and so cause not any train of ideas in the mind, are not per-
 ceived to move. *Locke.*
 It preserves the ends of the bones from incalcescence, which
 they, being solid bodies, would contract from any *swift* mo-
 tion. *Ray.*
 Thy stumbling founder'd jade can trot as high
 As any other Pegasus can fly;
 So the dull eel moves nimbler in the mud,
 Than all the *swift* fin'd racers of the flood. *Dorset.*
 Clouded in a deep abyss of light,
 While present, too severe for human sight,
 Nor staying longer than one *swift*-wing'd night. *Prior.*
 Mantiger made a circle round the chamber, and the *swift*-
 footed martin pursued him. *Arbutnot.*
 There too my son,—ah once my best delight,
 Once *swift* of foot, and terrible in fight. *Pope's Odyssey.*
Swift they descend, with wing to wing conjoin'd,
 Stretch their broad plumes, and float upon the wind. *Pope.*
2. Ready.
 Let every man be *swift* to hear, slow to speak. *Ja. i. 19.*
 He made intricate seem straight,
 To mischief *swift*. *Milton.*
- SWIFT. *n. f.* [from the quickness of their flight.]
 1. A bird like a swallow; a martin.
Swifts and swallows have remarkably short legs, and their
 toes grasp any thing very strongly. *Derham.*
 2. The current of a stream.
 He can live in the strongest *swifts* of the water. *Walton.*
 SWIFTLY. *adv.* [from *swift*.] Fleetly; rapidly; nimbly; with
 celerity; with velocity.
 These move *swiftly*, and at great distance; but then they
 require a medium well-disposed, and their transmission is ca-
 sily stopped. *Bacon's Natural History.*
 Pleas'd with the passage, we slide *swiftly* on, *Dryden.*
 And see the dangers which we cannot shun.
 In decent order they advance to light;
 Yet then too *swiftly* fleet by human sight,
 And meditate too soon their everlasting flight. *Prior.*
- SWIFTESS. *n. f.* [from *swift*.] Speed; nimbleness; rapidity;
 quickness; velocity; celerity.
 Let our proportions for these wars
 Be soon collected, and all thing thought upon,
 That may with reasonable *swiftness* add
 More feathers to our wings. *Shakespeare's Henry V.*
 We may outrun
 By violent *swiftness* that which we run at;
 And lose by over running. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*
 Speed to describe whole *swiftness* number fails. *Milton.*
 Exulting, till he finds their nobler sense
 Their disproportion'd speed does recompense;
 Then curses his conspiring feet, whose scent
 Betrays that safety which their *swiftness* lent. *Denham.*
 Such is the mighty *swiftness* of your mind,
 That like the earth's, it leaves our sense behind. *Dryden.*
- TO SWIC. *v. n.* [from *swiga*, Saxon.] To drink by large draughts.
 TO SWILL. *v. a.* [from *swill*, Saxon.]
 1. To drink luxuriously and grossly.
 The wretched, bloody, and usurping boar
 That spoil'd your summer fields and fruitful vines,
 Swills your warm blood like wash, and makes his trough
 In your embow'd bosoms. *Shakespeare's Richard III.*

S W I

- The most common of these causes are an hereditary dispo-
 sition, *swilling* down great quantities of cold watery liquors.
Arbutnot on Diet.
- Such is the poet, fresh in pay,
 The third night's profits of his play;
 His morning draughts till noon can *swill*,
 Among his brethren of the quill. *Swift.*
2. To wash; to drench.
 As fearfully as doth a galled rock
 O'erhang and jutty his confounded base,
Swill'd with the wild and wasteful ocean. *Shakespeare.*
 With that a German oft has *swill'd* his throat,
 Deluded, that imperial Rhine bestow'd
 The generous rummer. *Philips.*
3. To inebriate.
 I should be loth
 To meet the rudeness and *swill'd* insolence
 Of such late wallflowers. *Milton.*
 He drinks a *swilling* draught; and lin'd within,
 Will supple in the bath his outward skin. *Dryden.*
- SWILL. *n. f.* [from the verb.] Drink, luxuriously poured down.
 Give swine such *swill* as you have. *Mortimer.*
 Thus as they swim, in mutual *swill* the talk
 Reels fast from theme to theme. *Thomson.*
- SWILLER. *n. f.* [from *swill*.] A luxurious drinker.
 TO SWIM. *v. n.* Præterite *swam*, *swom*, or *swum*. [from *swimman*,
 Saxon; *swemmen*, Dutch.]
1. To float on the water; not to sink.
 I will scarce think you have *swam* in a gondola. *Shakespeare.*
 We have ships and boats for going under water, and brook-
 ing of seas; also *swimming*-girdles and supporters. *Bacon.*
2. To move progressively in the water by the motion of the
 limbs.
 Leap in with me into this angry flood,
 And swim to yonder point. *Shakespeare's Julius Caesar.*
 I have ventur'd,
 Like little wanton boys that swim on bladders,
 These many summers in a sea of glory;
 But far beyond my depth. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*
 The soldiers counsel was to kill the prisoners, lest any of
 them should swim out and escape. *Alts xxvii. 42.*
 The rest driven into the lake, where seeking to save their
 lives by *swimming*, they were slain in coming to land by the
 Spanish horsemen, or else in their *swimming* shot by the har-
 quebusers. *Kneller.*
 Animals swim in the same manner as they go, and need
 no other way of motion for natation in the water, than for
 progression upon the land. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
 The frighted wolf now swims among the sheep,
 The yellow lion wanders in the deep;
 He stag swims faster than he ran before. *Dryden.*
 Blue Triton gave the signal from the shore,
 The ready Nereids heard and swam before,
 To smooth the seas. *Dryden.*
3. To be conveyed by the stream.
 With tenders of our protection of them from the fury of
 those who would soon drown them, if they refused to swim
 down the popular stream with them. *King Charles.*
 I swam with the tide, and the water under me was buoyant.
Dryden.
4. To glide along with a smooth or dizzy motion.
 She with pretty and with *swimming* gate
 Follyings, her womb then rich with young faune
 Would imitate. *Shakespeare.*
 A hovering mist came *swimming* o'er his sight,
 And seal'd his eyes in everlasting night. *Dryden.*
 My slack hand dropt, and all the idle pomp,
 Priests, altars, victims *swam* before my sight!
 The fainting soul stood ready wing'd for flight,
 And o'er his eye-balls *swam* the shades of night. *Pope.*
5. To be dizzy; to be vertiginous.
 I am taken with a grievous *swimming* in my head, and such
 a mist before my eyes, that I can neither hear nor see. *Dryd.*
6. To be floated.
 When the heavens are filled with clouds, when the earth
 swims in rain, and all nature wears a lowering countenance, I
 withdraw myself from these uncomfortable scenes into the vi-
 sionary worlds of art. *Adelphi's Spectator.*
 Sudden the ditches swell, the meadows swim. *Thomson.*
7. To have abundance of any quality; to flow in any thing.
 They now swim in joy,
 Ere long to swim at large, and laugh; for which
 The world a world of tears must weep. *Milton.*
- TO SWIM. *v. a.* To pass by swimming.
 Sometimes he thought to swim the stormy main,
 By stretch of arms the distant shore to gain. *Dryden.*
- SWIMM. *n. f.* [from the verb.] The bladder of fishes by which
 they are supported in the water.
 The braces have the nature and use of tendons, in contract-
 ing the swim, and thereby transuding the air out of one blad-
 der into another, or discharging it from them both. *Swimmer.*

S W I

- SWIMMER. *n. f.* [from *swim*.]
 1. One who swims.
 Birds find ease in the depth of the air, as swimmers do in a
 deep water. *Bacon.*
 Latrofitrous and flat billed birds, being generally swimmers,
 the organ is wisely contrived for action. *Brown.*
 Life is oft preserv'd
 By the bold swimmer, in the swift illapse
 Of accident disastrous. *Thomson.*
2. The swimmer is situated in the fore legs of a horse, above
 the knees, and upon the inside, and almost upon the back
 parts of the hind legs, a little below the ham: this part is with-
 out hair, and resembles a piece of hard dry horn. *Farrier's Dict.*
- SWIMMINGLY. *adv.* [from *swimming*.] Smoothly; without
 obstruction. A low word.
 John got on the battlements, and called to Nick, I hope
 the cause goes on swimmingly. *Arbutnot.*
- SWINE. *n. f.* [from *swin*, Saxon; *swyn*, Dutch. It is probably the
 plural of some old word, and is now the same in both num-
 bers.] A hog; a pig. A creature remarkable for stupidity
 and rascality.
 O monstrous beast! how like a swine he lies! *Shakespeare.*
 He will be swine drunk; and in his sleep he does little harm,
 save to his bedcloaths. *Shakespeare.*
- Who knows not Circe,
 The daughter of the Sun? whose charmed cup
 Whoever tasted, lost his upright shape,
 And downward fell into a groveling swine. *Milton.*
 Had the upper part, to the middle, been of human shape,
 and all below swine, had it been murder to destroy it? *Locke.*
 How infinitely varies in the grovelling swine,
 Compar'd, half reasoning elephant, with thine! *Pope.*
- SWINEHEAD. *n. f.* A kind of plant; trifles.
 SWINEHERD. *n. f.* [from *swin* and *herd*, Saxon.] A keeper of
 hogs.
 There swineherd, that keepeth the hog. *Tusser.*
 The whole interview between Ulysses and Eumeus has
 fallen into ridicule: Eumeus has been judged to be of the
 same rank and condition with our modern swineherds. *Broom.*
- SWINEPIKE. *n. f.* A bird of the thrush kind. *Bailey.*
- TO SWING. *v. n.* [from *swing*, Saxon.]
 1. To wave too and fro hanging loosely.
 I tried if a pendulum would swing faster, or continue swing-
 ing longer in our receiver, in case of exhalation of the air,
 than otherwise. *Boyle.*
 If the coach swing but the least to one side, she used to
 shriek so loud, that all concluded she was overturned. *Arbutnot.*
 Jack hath hanged himself: let us go see how he swings. *Arb.*
 When the swinging signs your ears offend
 With creaking noise, then rainy floods impend. *Gay.*
2. To fly backward and forward on a rope.
 TO SWING. *v. a.* præterite *swang*, *swing*.
 1. To make to play loosely on a string.
 2. To whirl round in the air.
 His sword prepar'd
 He swung about his head, and cut the winds. *Shakespeare.*
 Take bottles and swing them: fill not the bottles full, but
 leave some air, else the liquor cannot play nor flower. *Bacon.*
 Swinging a red-hot iron about, or fastening it unto a wheel
 under that motion, it will sooner grow cold. *Bravon.*
 Swing thee in the air, then dash thee down,
 To th' hazard of thy brains and shatter'd sides. *Milton.*
3. To wave loosely.
 If one approach to dare his force,
 He swings his tail, and swiftly turns him round. *Dryden.*
- SWING. *n. f.* [from the verb.]
 1. Motion of any thing hanging loosely.
 In casting of any thing, the arms, to make a greater swing,
 are first cast backward. *Bacon's Natural History.*
 Men use a pendulum, as a more steady and regular motion
 than that of the earth; yet if any one should ask how he
 certainly knows that the two successive swings of a pendulum
 are equal, it would be very hard to satisfy him. *Locke.*
2. A line on which any thing hangs loose.
 3. Influence or power of a body put in motion:
 The ram that batters down the wall,
 For the great swing and rudeness of his poize, *Shakespeare.*
 They place before his hand that made the engine.
 In this encyclopedia, and round of knowledge, like the great
 wheels of heaven, we're to observe two circles, that, while we
 are daily carried about, and whirled on by the swing and rapt
 of the one, we may maintain a natural and proper course in
 the sober wheel of the other. *Brown.*
 The defending of the earth to this orbit is not upon that
 mechanical account Cartesius pretends, namely, the strong
 swing of the more solid globuli that overflow it. *Mare.*
4. Course; unrestrained liberty; abandonment to any motive.
 Facts unjust
 Commit, even to the full swing of his lust. *Chapman.*
 Take thy swing;
 For not to take, is but the self-same thing. *Dryden.*

S W I

- Let them all take their swing
 To pillage the king,
 And get a blue ribband instead of a string. *Swift.*
5. Unrestrained tendency.
 Where the swing goeth, there follow, fawn, flatter, laugh,
 and lie lustily at other mens liking. *Ascham's Schoolmaster.*
 These exuberant productions only excited and fomented his
 lusts; so that his whole time lay upon his hands, and gave him
 leisure to contrive and with full swing pursue his follies. *Wood.*
 Those that are so persuaded, desire to be wife in a way that
 will gratify their appetites, and so give up themselves to the
 swing of their unbounded propensities. *Glauco. Scept. Preface.*
 Were it not for these, civil government were not able to
 stand before the prevailing swing of corrupt nature, which
 would know no honesty but advantage. *South.*
- TO SWINGE. *v. a.* [from *swing*, Saxon.]
 1. To whip; to bastinado; to punish.
 Sir, I was in love with my bed: I thank you, you swing'd
 me for my love, which makes me the bolder to chide you for
 your's. *Shakespeare's Two Gent. of Verona.*
- This very rev'rend lecher, quite worn out
 With rheumatisms, and crippled with his gout,
 Forgets what he in youthful times has done,
 And swings his own vices in his son. *Dryd. jun. Juvenal.*
 The printer brought along with him a bundle of these pa-
 pers, which, in the phrase of the whig-coffeehouses, have
 swung off the Examiner. *Swift.*
2. To move as a lash. Not in use.
- He, wroth to see his kingdom fail,
 Swings the scaly horror of his folded tail. *Milton.*
- SWINGE. *n. f.* [from the verb.] A sway; a sweep of any thing
 in motion. Not in use.
- The shallow water doth her force infringe,
 And renders vain her tail's impetuous swing. *Waller.*
- SWINGEBUCKLER. *n. f.* [from *swing* and *buckler*.] A bully; a
 man who pretends to feats of arms.
 You had not four such swingebucklers in all the inns of court
 again. *Shakespeare's Henry IV.*
- SWINGER. *n. f.* [from *swing*.] He who swings; a hurler.
- SWINGING. *adj.* [from *swing*.] Great; huge. A low word.
 The countryman seeing the lion disarmed, with a swinging
 cudgel broke off the match. *L'Estrange.*
 A good swinging sum of John's readiest cash went towards
 building of Hocus's countryhouse. *Arbutnot.*
- SWINGINGLY. *adv.* [from *swing*.] Vastly; greatly.
 Henceforward he'll print neither pamphlets nor linen,
 And, if swearing can do't, shall be swingingly maul'd. *Swift.*
- TO SWINGLE. *v. n.* [from *swing*.]
 1. To dangle; to wave hanging.
 2. To swing in pleasure.
- SWINISH. *adj.* [from *swine*.] Befitting swine; resembling
 swine; gross; brutal.
 They clepe us drunkards, and with swinish phrase
 Soil our addition. *Shakespeare's Hamlet.*
 Swinish gluttony
 Ne'er looks to heav'n amidst his gorgeous feast;
 But, with belov'd base ingratitude,
 Crams and blasphemes his feeder. *Milton.*
- TO SWINK. *v. n.* [from *swinc*, Saxon.] To labour; to toil; to
 drudge. Obsolete.
 Riches, renown, and principality,
 For which men swink and sweat incessantly. *Fairy Queen.*
 For they do swink and sweat to feed the other,
 Who live like lords of that which they do gather. *Hub. Tale.*
- TO SWINK. *v. a.* To overlabour.
 The labour'd ox
 In his loose traces from the furrow came,
 And the swink'd hedger at his supper sat. *Milton.*
- SWINK. *n. f.* [from *swinc*, Saxon.] Labour; toil; drudgery. Ob-
 solete.
 Ah, Piers, been thy teeth on edge, to think
 How great sport they gaynen with little swinke? *Spenser.*
 Thou'st but a lazy loorde,
 And rekes much of thy swinke. *Spenser.*
- SWITCH. *n. f.* A small flexible twig.
 Fetch me a dozen crabtree slaves, and strong ones; these
 are but switches. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*
 When a circle 'bout the wrist
 Is made by beadle exorcist,
 The body feels the spur and switch. *Hudibras.*
 Mauritania, on the fifth medal, leads a horse with something
 like a thread; in her other hand she holds a switch. *Addison.*
- TO SWITCH. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To lash; to jerk.
 Lay thy bridle's weight
 Most of thy left side; thy right horse then switching, all thy
 throat
 Spent in encouragements, give him; and all the rein let
 float. *Chapman's Iliad.*
- SWIVEL. *n. f.* Something fixed in another body so as to turn
 round in it.